

Conversion of rail line between Kasganj and Kanpur

3917. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what progress has been made so far in the conversion of meter gauge line between Kasganj and Kanpur, into broad gauge;
- (b) the details of the shortfall, alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) This is a part of gauge conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and Kasganj-Bareilly project. It is being done in four phases in the following priority:—

- (i) Kanpur-Farrukhabad section (140 km.)
- (ii) Farrukhabad-Kasganj section (108 km.) (iii) Kasganj-Mathura section (105 km.) (iv) Kasganj-Bareilly section (105.50 km.)

On Kanpur-Kasganj section, approximately 90% earthwork has been completed and further work is in progress. 132 minor bridges out of 260 have been completed while another 10 bridges are in progress. Work on two out of five major bridges is also in progress. Miscellaneous yard works and shifting of level crossing gates have also been taken up on Kanpur-Farrukhabad section. A budget outlay of Rs. 26.00 crore has been proposed for this work during financial year 2001-02. Work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Selections for Group B posts in Railway Engineering Department

3918. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Departmental selection for Group B posts in the Railways' Engineering Department was conducted against LDCE during 2000;
- (b) if so, how many SC employees had appeared for this selection;

- (c) whether any SC employees had passed in the written test;
- (d) if not, whether any grace marks were given for them to qualify for the selection; and
- (e) whether any prepromotional training was given to them, just before the examination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Written test of the Limited Department Competitive Examination (LDCE) for promotion to Group 'B' posts in Civil Engineering Department was conducted during the year 2000 on Central, Southern and Western Railways.

(b) Number of SC employees who had appeared in the written test of the above LDCE was as under:

Central	:	74
Southern	:	80
Western	:	88

(c) One SC employee on Central Railway and five SC employees on Western Railway qualified in the written test.

(d) Group 'B' posts in Civil Engineering Department are "Safety" posts, hence no relaxation is permissible in the qualifying marks for employees belonging to SOST.

(e) Pre-promotional training to SC/ST employees are given before written examination.

Arsikere-Mangalore uniform gauge

3919. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the Karnataka Chief Minister regarding the need for uniform gauge from Arsikere to Mangalore to help exporters and importers of the hinterland, against the high costs of transportation to and from Mangalore port and for making full provision for the balance of work for completion of Hassan-Mangalore conversion project;